

"Nothing succeeds like failure", Nothing as right as error', and "Nothing as good as evil" have been the philosophical and operational basis of American international policy since the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The wonder is that we have survived it - as a major power and, indeed, at all, for it has put a premium on others to shelter us from the fruits of our own follies.

To this should be added the standard that no advisor is as dependable as he who has been invariably wrong, for American ~~xx~~ presidents have crutched themselves upon just such advisors, and undeviatingly pursued the knowingly wrong advice that pours from like like water over Niagara,

The worse the President's performance, as President Kennedy confessed in amazement to his Harvard Boswell, Arthur Schlessinger, the more spectacular his failures, the greater his popularity and support. Consistently as his predecessors and his successor, Kennedy adhered to the philosophy that assured him his faults and multiplied his following. He practised what, according to Schlessinger, he frankly described as mythology.

And this, dear children and gentle readers, is how in the mid-20th. century, the United States reached the pinnacle of its military, economic and

political power, how Presidents get re-elected, and how, somehow in spite of its more strenuous efforts, the world was spared nuclear incineration. It is as though presidential political campaigns were managed by Aesop and Hans Christian Anderson, with the ballot counting by the brothers Grimm,